

## Polls on Dec 18 at any cost

Hasina reacts sharply to demand for fresh election schedule; huge reception on return from abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ninth parliamentary elections must be held on the announced date at any cost no matter whether any certain party takes part in it or not.

"Under no pretext, the election should be delayed or no conspiracy would be allowed to foil it," Hasina told a crowded press briefing at the



VIP lounge of Zia International Airport (ZIA) after arriving there from the US at 9:00am.

"There are many political parties in Bangladesh. It cannot happen that the election is not being held considering who is participating in it or not," she said. Hinting at the BNP, which has demanded fresh polls schedule, she said, "My question is: Why won't they take part in the election?"

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## EC warns AL Commuters suffer for Hasina's reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Severe traffic congestion disrupted city life yesterday as Awami League (AL) mustered thousands of its supporters to line city streets from Zia International Airport (ZIA) to Dhanmondi to welcome Sheikh Hasina home.

Public sufferings knew no bounds as movement on the streets was brought to a virtual standstill, particularly during the morning hours due to traffic jams on the roads that lasted way past noon.

The Election Commission (EC) meanwhile requested AL yesterday to refrain from holding any programmes like the reception accorded to Sheikh Hasina on the roads as it violates the election codes of conduct.

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## FALU'S FAKE CERTIFICATES

# 11 doctors asked to appear in SC dock

ACC moves to get bail cancelled, stay vacated in 4 cases

PINAKI ROY and ASHTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday summoned 11 doctors and the registrar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for signing a "false" medical certificate for detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu that earned him bail from the High Court (HC).

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has meanwhile made a move to appeal to the SC to



Mosaddek Ali Falu

vacate the bail and stay orders in four cases secured by Falu by submitting the "false medical report".

The SC recently stayed an HC order granting bail to Falu in a case as he obtained the bail by submitting the same medical report.

Meanwhile, during hearing of a bail prayer filed by former BNP state minister Aman Ullah Aman, an HC bench yesterday asked an ACC counsel to produce the investigation report on the medical board and its report about health of

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## Trip inside hospital prison cell

PINAKI ROY

"As-Salamu Alaykum." Lutfozzaman Babar stopped and replied, "Walaikum."

It was 3:00pm yesterday. In khakis and a Hawaiian shirt, the former state minister for home was taking a walk down the corridor in front of his prison room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital.

Trying to strike up a conversation, this correspondent asked, "How is your health?"

Not much caring about the questioner's identity, he

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PHOTO: STAR

Supporters overwhelm the vehicle carrying Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Mirpur Road at Kalabagan yesterday grinding the motorcade to a halt.

## Delwar sees AL's 'understanding' with government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's recent comments show that her party came to an 'understanding' with the government over the polls.

He, however, would not explain the nature of the 'understanding'.

Hasina on November 5 said her party would contest the polls even if the BNP decides to opt out of it.

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## BNP to observe Nat'l Solidarity Day today

Khaleda to address Ctg rally

STAR REPORT

BNP will observe today as the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' while some other political parties, including Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), as the 'Civil-Military Uprising Day'.

To mark the day, BNP and its

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## Submit milk test results by Nov 9

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to produce the reports of lab tests done at home and abroad on melamine-tainted milk power of eight popular brands before it by November 9.

The brands in question are

Australia's Diploma and Red Cow, Denmark's Dano Full Cream, China's Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2, and New Zealand's Nido Fortified Instant and Anlene.

An HC bench of justices Syed Mahmud Hossain and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui passed the order following a petition filed by Human

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## Tax return deadline now Nov 12

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended the deadline for submitting income tax returns to November 12 following the requests of different quarters, including businessmen.

NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid told The Daily Star yesterday that some taxpayers had failed to submit necessary documents by November 6 deadline and

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## Pintu down with curious 'sickness'

PINAKI ROY

Discrepancies have been found in medical papers of former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, who has been at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital now for around two months and half.

Independent specialists who have examined the dossier said it seems to have been designed to be used at court to Pintu's advantage.

The discrepancy issue comes close on the heels of Mosaddek Ali Falu's forgery of medical certifi-



cate.

Pintu was shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU) after he complained of 'severe chest pain' 10 days ago. Before that, he was undergoing treatment at general prison ward for eye problems.

Lately, the joint force has launched a probe into his current state of health.

Pintu who is being tried by the Special Court-1 for embezzlement of relief materials did not attend case proceedings on 21, 27 and 29 October. The jail authorities

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## BNP out to buy time out of polls schedule

Struggles to find right candidates as party badly hurt by reforms, anti-graft drive

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP has asked for fresh election schedule to buy time in their desperate search for electable candidates, not for the concern over EC's announcing the poll fixture hurriedly, party insiders confided.

The party has witnessed an extraordinary reversal of fortunes since late October, 2006 and its organisational structure nearly collapsed in anti-corruption drive,

conviction orders against influential leaders and party reform issue.

A day before it quit power, thirteen MPs of the eighth parliament joined the Liberal Democratic Party, 24 have so far been convicted in the current anti-corruption drive, disqualifying them to run for parliament; and 22 are still under trial.

Some incurred the wrath of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia supporters after billing themselves as reformists. They are still loyal to

expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who spearheaded the failed reforms programme.

The BNP hit the rock bottom after the declaration of the emergency rules. Many party leaders were either arrested or went into hiding in the corruption-busting drive. The tussle between the reformists and the old guard has also damaged top-down party cohesion.

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## Talking polls and beyond

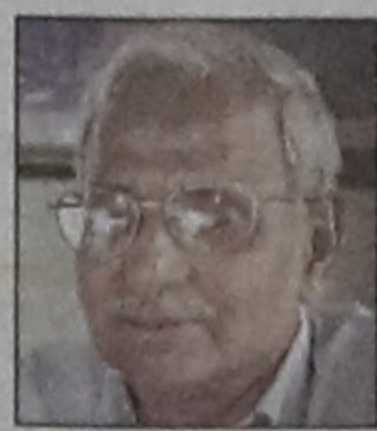
# Emergency to keep criminals away

Says Badiul Alam Majumdar about polls

SHAMIM ASHRAF

Secretary of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan) Badiul Alam Majumdar favours keeping the state of emergency in force during the upcoming parliamentary elections to keep away criminal elements from contesting the polls.

"There was no problem during the local elections held under emergency. People cast their votes freely. Convicted criminals will benefit if emergency is withdrawn. Is that in our interest?" he



said in an interview with The Daily Star.

He demanded steps to prevent musclemen and black money holders from influencing the election.

He said a few activities of the caretaker government cannot be supported. "It intervened by creating reformists and non-reformists in political parties, which aroused serious suspicion in the minds of people and eroded support for government," he noted.

The country director of the

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Find details of the interview on page 11

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